AN

ACT

TO

INCORPORATE THE SOCIETY

OF

MECHANICS AND TRADESMEN

OF THE CITY OF

NEW-YORK,

FOR

CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

Passed the 14th of March, 1792.

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SEYMOUR DURST

A C T, &c.

WHEREAS ROBERT BOYD, and others, *Mechanics* and *Tradeſmen*, of the city of New-York, aſſociated as a Society, under the ſtyle of "*The General Society of Mechanics and Tradeſmen of the City of New-York*," for the laudable purpoſes of protecting and ſupporting ſuch of their brethren as by ſickneſs or accident may ſtand in need of aſſiſtance, and for the relief of the widows and orphans of thoſe who may die, leaving little or no property for their ſupport, by their petition, preſented to the Legiſlature, have prayed to be incorporated, to enable them more beneficially to carry into effect their charitable intentions: Therefore,

BE it enacted by the People of the State of New-York, repreſented in Senate and Aſſembly, That the ſaid Robert Boyd, together with Nicholas N. Anthony, Thomas Allen, William Allen, Jacob Arden, Francis Arden, John Amory, Allard Anthony, Jacob I. Arden, Thomas Aſh, Elbert Anderſon, Jacob Arnold, John Burger, John Burger, junior, William Bryar, Michael Brooks, Abraham Bloodgood, Francis Baſſett, David Barclay, Walter Bicker, Gardner Baker, James Brown, James Bramble, John P. Beſſonett, John Brower, Thomas Brewen, James Byrne, John Brown, Peter Bertine, John Bingham,

James D. Biſſett, Thomas Brown, John Banks, Iſaac Boyea, Caleb Boyle, John Campbell, Joſeph Cheeſeman, John Commendener, John Cole, Peter Cole, Richard Cunningham, Samuel Campbell, Francis Childs, William Corleys, William Carman, John Clitz, Seabury Champlain, John Croleies, Iſaac Coulthard, James Culbertſon, Richard Davis, John De la Montayne, Walter Degraw, James Van Dyck, John Van Dyck, William I. Elſworth, John Elſworth, Jacob Fiſler, Gabriel Furman, Jacob Fee, William Forde, George Goſman, William W. Gilbert, John Goodeve, John Gilmore, Robert Goſman, Alexander Gibſon, Caleb Haviland, Thomas Hazard, Robert Hodge, Peter Hulick, Hercules Heron, William Hopſon, Daniel Hitchcock, Jabez Halſey, Jacob Hallett, Aaron Howell, Obadiah Helmes, Thomas Ivers, Joſeph Jadwin, Seth Kneelen, George Lindſey, Robert Lilburn, Thomas Le Foy, John Moore, John M'Comb, ſenior, Dennis M'Cready, John Mills, Malcolm M'Euen, George Merſerve, William Merſerve, William Mooney, White Matlack, William Mooney, Peter R. Maverick, David Mann, Andrew Morris, James Moore, John M'Baine, Robert M'Dowell, John Ming, Iſaac Moore, Peter M'Cartey, John M'Comb, junior, Joſeph Newton, Iſaac Nicoll, John Norman, Anthony Ogilvie, Andrew Otterſon, Anthony Poſt, Abraham Polhemus, Jotham Poſt, John Perrian, Edward Patten, George Pake, George Peck, Alexander Peacock, William Philips, William Parker, Abraham Ruſſell,

James Robinſon, Frederick Reſler, Thomas Roſs, John Roſs, Abraham Riker, John I. Richie, Daniel Ruckel, John Stagg, Thomas Stevenſon, John Sidell, Daniel Stanſbury, John Striker, Graderus Smith, Frederick Stymets, Stephen Smith, Anthony Simmons, Jacob Sherred, George Seal, George Speth, Henry Snyder, William Stymets, Peter Shackerly, Cornelius Sebring, Andrew Thompſon, James Tylee, James Teller, Ahaſuerus Turk, Thomas Timpſon, Daniel Tooker, John Utt, John Wylley, Henry Will, Edward Watkeys, Hugh Walſh, William Wright, George Warner, Henry Wolf, James Warner, Nathaniel Woodward. Benjamin Williamſon, John Wood, John Wright, Andrew Wright and John Young, and all perſons being Mechanics or Tradeſmen, and reſident within the city and county of New-York, who hereafter ſhall be members of the ſaid Society, ſhall be and hereby are ordained, conſtituted and declared to be one body corporate and politic; in fact and in name, by the name of "*The General Society of Mechanics and Tradeſmen of the City of New-York,*" until the firſt Monday of April, one thouſand eight hundred and twelve; and that by that name they and their ſucceſſors, for the term aforeſaid, ſhall and may have ſucceſſion, and ſhall be perſons in law, capable of ſuing and being ſued, pleading and being impleaded, anſwering and being anſwered unto, defending and being defended in all courts and places whatſoever, in all manner of action and actions, ſuits, complaints, matters and cauſes.

whatſoever; and that they and their ſucceſſors may have a common ſeal, and may change and alter the ſame at their pleaſure. And, alſo, that they and their ſucceſſors, by the name of "*The General Society of Mechanics and Tradeſmen of the City of New-York,*" ſhall be in law capable of purchaſing, holding and conveying any eſtate, real or perſonal, for the public uſe of the ſaid Corporation.

Provided, That the lands, tenements and hereditaments, which it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Corporation to hold, ſhall be only ſuch as ſhall be requiſite for the purpoſe of erecting a houſe or hall thereon, in which to meet and to tranſact the buſineſs of the ſaid Corporation, or ſuch as ſhall have been *bona fide* mortgaged to it by way of ſecuriety, or conveyed to it in ſatisfaction of debts previouſly contracted in the courſe of its buſineſs, or purchaſed at ſales on judgments which ſhall have been obtained for ſuch debts.

And, *Provided alſo*, That the amount of the real and perſonal eſtate, which the ſaid Corporation are hereby enabled to hold, ſhall not at any one time exceed the ſum of *fifty thouſand dollars*.

And be it further enacted, That the officers of the ſaid Corporation, ſhall be a Preſident, Vice-Preſident, and a ſecond Vice-Preſident, a Treaſurer and Secretary, who ſhall hold their offices for one year, and ſhall be citizens of this ſtate, and be elected on the firſt Tueſday in January in every year, at ſuch time of the day and at ſuch place in the city of New-York, as ſhall be fixed and aſcertained by the bye-laws of the ſaid Cor-

poration. That all elections of the said officers or any of them shall be by ballot, and such person who shall have at any election the greatest number of votes given at such election as President shall be the President; and in like manner the person who shall have the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be Vice-President; and in like manner the person who shall have the greatest number of votes for second Vice-President shall be second Vice-President; and in like manner the person who shall have the greatest number of votes as Treasurer shall be Treasurer; and in like manner the person who shall have the greatest number of votes as Secretary shall be Secretary: And the said officers shall hold their respective offices for one year, and until others shall be chosen in their places: That if any vacancies shall happen among the said officers by death, resignation or removal, such vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the year in which they may happen by a special election for that purpose to be held in the same manner as the annual elections are made, at such times and places as shall be provided for and determined by the bye-laws of the said Corporation: That Robert Boyd shall be the first President of the said Corporation, Anthony Post Vice-President thereof, Daniel Hitchcock second Vice-President thereof, Thomas Le Foy the Treasurer thereof, and John Elsworth the Secretary thereof; who shall hold their offices respectively until the first Tuesday in January next, and until others shall be chosen in their places.

And be it further enacted, That in case it should at any time happen that an election of officers should not be made on any day when pursuant to this act it ought to have been made, the said Corporation shall not for that cause be deemed to be dissolved, but it shall and may be lawful on any other day to hold and make an election of officers, in such manner as shall have been regulated by the laws and ordinances of the said Corporation.

And be it further enacted, That all elections and all meetings of the said Corporation, shall be made and held in a place certain to be fixed and determined by the bye-laws of the said Corporation; and that at all such elections and meetings of the said Corporation, so to be held as aforesaid, twenty-five members thereof, including the President, or in his absence the Vice-President, or in his absence the second Vice-President, shall be considered as a quorum of the said Corporation, and shall have full power to do and transact all the business thereof.

And be it further enacted, That the said Corporation and their successors, shall have full power to make and prescribe such bye-laws, rules, ordinances and regulations as to them from time to time shall appear needful and proper, touching the management and disposition of their stock, property, estate and effects for the purposes aforesaid, and touching the meetings of the said Society, both special and ordinary, except the first Tuesday in January in every year, which is hereby declared to be the annual meeting of

the Society, and touching the duties and conduct of the officers of the said Corporation, and touching the election of officers and all such other matters as appertain to the business, ends and purposes for which the said Corporation is by this act instituted, and for no other purposes whatsoever.

Provided, That such bye-laws, rules and regulations, be not repugnant to the constitution or the laws of the United States or of this state.

And be it further enacted, That all persons, being Mechanics or Tradesmen, and resident within the city and county of New-York, desiring to become members of the said Corporation, shall be proposed by at least two members, one meeting previous to his or their election, which shall be by ballot, and determined by two-thirds of the members present at such election; that then he or they so elected, on paying into the hands of the Treasurer such sum as the Corporation, by their bye-laws shall direct: *Provided* the same shall not exceed the sum of *ten Dollars*, shall have his or their names inserted in the general register, and shall be entitled to all the privileges and benefits arising therefrom.

And to the end, that the funds of the said Corporation may never be diverted to any other than the charitable purposes for which the institution has been expressly made and created,

Be it further enacted, That the said Corporation shall, within twenty days after the passing of this act, exhibit to the Chancellor of this state a full and particular account of all the estate, real

and perſonal, then veſted in the ſaid Corporation, atteſted by the oath of the Treaſurer thereof, that the ſame is a true and perfect account: And ſhall alſo in every year thereafter, during the continuance of this act, and between the firſt and laſt days of May in each year, exhibit to the Chancellor for the time being, a like account of all monies by the ſaid Corporation expended in the preceding year, ſpecifying the ſeveral purpoſes to which it has been applied: And if it ſhall appear to the ſaid Chancellor that any monies, except for the neceſſary repairs of any buildings which may belong to the ſaid Corportion, or for the payment of the Treaſurer or Secretary thereof, or for other charges expreſsly incidental to the management of the funds thereof, have been applied by the ſaid Corporation to any uſe other than for the ſupport of indigent members of the ſaid Corporation, or the widows or children of any perſon having been a member thereof, he ſhall direct the Attorney-General of the ſtate for the time being, *ex officio*, to file an information againſt the ſaid Corporation in the Supreme Court of this State; and if upon the traverſe, the ſaid Corporation ſhall be found guilty, and judgment ſhall paſs thereupon, that thenceforth the ſaid Corporation ſhall ceaſe and become null and void, and the eſtate, real and perſonal, which it may then poſſeſs, ſhall veſt in the people of this ſtate.

And be it further enacted, That this act be and hereby is declared to be a public act; and that

the ſame be conſtrued in all Courts and places, benignly and favorably for every beneficial purpoſe therein intended.

A true Copy from the original Act,
now filed in the Secretary's-Office
of the State of New-York,
LEWIS A. SCOTT, *Sec'ry.*

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